

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present application with claims 1 and 31 being the only independent claims. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of the claims, nor have the amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof.

Telephonic Interview

A telephonic interview was conducted on April 1, 2011 between Examiner Kamal, the Examiner's supervisor, and Applicant's undersigned representative. Applicant would like to express that the Examiner's time and consideration are greatly appreciated. During the telephonic interview, Applicant's representative discussed the patentability of the limitations in independent claim 1 drawn to the cavities or holes and more specifically to the limitations drawn to at least one opening directed sideways from each cavity or hole. The Examiner stated that he would consider the arguments for patentability if submitted in a written response. Accordingly, applicant has presented the arguments below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 31 was found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claim 31 is rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims and to address the formal matters discussed below. Accordingly, claim 31 is now allowable.

Abstract

The Abstract is rewritten to comply with the proper format. Accordingly, the objection to the Abstract should now be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because claim 1 includes the phrase “such as” and “the like”. The claims have been amended to correct these and other minor infelicities. In view of the amendment, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, should now be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over GB 2323297 (Christopher) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,659,090 (Kustanovich).

Independent claim 1 recites “an insulation layer between said outer and inner layers is provided with cavities or holes at the positions of the pressure sensitive switches for establishing temporary contact therein, and from each cavity or hole at least one opening directed sideways for air movement during said impact or pressure activation”. This limitation is shown, for example in Fig. 5C in which holes/cavities 50 have openings 51 (see page 14, line 27 of the application as originally filed).

The Examiner refers to Christopher as disclosing the above features and refers to the Abstract and page 3, lines 8-18 of Christopher. However, these Examiner-cited portions of Christopher do not mention an insulation layer.

The only portion of Christopher that could arguably be considered an insulation layer is the separation layer 26. However, the apertures 28 through the separation layer 26 do not have openings directed sideways, as expressly recited in independent claim 1.

Applicant notes that Kustanovich was not added to cure the deficiencies of the primary reference discussed above but to show additional limitations. Even if Kustanovich was to show the

additional limitations it is purported to show, the additional limitations do not cure the deficiencies discussed above.

Thus, independent claim 1 is allowable over the combination of Christopher in view of Kustanovich.

Dependent claims 2-30 and 32 are allowable for the same reasons as is independent claim 1, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
COHEN PONTANI LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP

By /Alfred W. Froebrich/
Alfred W. Froebrich
Reg. No. 38,887
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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